



**Signature Report**

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**Proposed No.** 2006-0293.3

**Sponsors** Constantine and Hague

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to river and floodplain  
2 management, adopting the 2006 King County Flood Hazard  
3 Management Plan as a functional plan of the King County  
4 Comprehensive Plan; and amending Ordinance 11112,  
5 Section 1, and K.C.C. 20.12.480.

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8 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

9 1. Six major river systems flow through King County - the South Fork  
10 Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Sammamish, Cedar, Green and White rivers -  
11 and their significant tributaries, the Tolt, Raging, Miller and Greenwater  
12 rivers. Other tributaries and smaller streams include Tokul creek, Kimball  
13 creek, Coal creek (Snoqualmie), Issaquah creek, Fifteen Mile creek and  
14 Holder creek.

15 2. River and stream flooding impact private property, businesses, public  
16 and private infrastructure such as parks and utilities, transportation  
17 corridors, and can directly and indirectly result in loss of life.

18           3. King County adopted the policies of the 1993 Flood Hazard Reduction  
19           Plan as operating principles to guide King County's River Management  
20           Program and to meet the intent of the water and natural resource policies  
21           of the 1994, 2000 and 2004 King County Comprehensive Plans. The  
22           Flood Hazard Reduction Plan is listed as a functional plan of the King  
23           County Comprehensive Plan 2004 in Technical Appendix A (Capital  
24           Facilities).

25           4. The 2006 Flood Hazard Management Plan is an update to the 1993  
26           Flood Hazard Reduction Plan to respond to aging flood protection  
27           infrastructure and unmet maintenance needs, new or updated federal  
28           regulatory requirements, environmental impacts of past flood hazard  
29           management practices and changes in watersheds since 1993.

30           5. The 2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan meets the  
31           requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program's Community  
32           Rating System, which provides a thirty-five-percent discount on federally-  
33           backed flood insurance premiums for unincorporated King County  
34           property owners. Savings are approximately two hundred eighty-three  
35           dollars per year for the average flood insurance policy.

36           6. The 2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan complies with  
37           the federal Disaster Mitigation Act and will assure that King County  
38           remains eligible and competitive for state and federal programs providing  
39           technical and financial assistance to local communities for flood hazard  
40           management.

41           7. The 2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan considers the  
42           impact of flood hazard management policies and actions on habitat for  
43           Puget Sound Chinook salmon and bull trout, which are listed as threatened  
44           under the federal Endangered Species Act.

45           8. The 2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan proposes  
46           project actions to repair, replace, and in some cases remove, levee and  
47           flood protection infrastructure to ensure King County can adequately  
48           reduce flood risks and address critical infrastructure needs.

49           9. The 2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan is necessary to  
50           protect life and safety, valuable public and private property, the regional  
51           economy and general welfare of King County and its residents.

52           10. Implementation of the 2006 King County Flood Hazard Management  
53           Plan will require additional funds to ensure timely implementation of the  
54           projects and programs that are outlined in the plan to reduce flood risks  
55           and infrastructure needs on major rivers in King County and to address  
56           subregional flood risks and infrastructure needs on tributaries, and that  
57           carry out the flood risk policies and other policy objectives of the plan, as  
58           are identified by the council, executive and cooperating jurisdictions.

59           11. The King County executive has transmitted a proposed ordinance  
60           (Proposed Ordinance 2006-0334) proposing the formation of a countywide  
61           flood control zone district and the dissolution of existing flood control  
62           zone districts within the county.

63 12. Chapter 7 of the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan  
64 identifies the creation of a countywide flood control zone district and an  
65 annual assessment as the preferred alternative for financing of projects  
66 listed in the plan. Proposed Ordinance 2006-0293 cannot and does not  
67 create a county flood control zone district or levy an assessment. Creation  
68 of such a district can only be accomplished through a separate legislative  
69 action by the council. The legislation to accomplish has been transmitted  
70 under Proposed Ordinance 2006-0334. Separate legislation would also be  
71 needed to levy an assessment.

72 13. Support for and approval of King County Flood Hazard Management  
73 Plan does not constitute a commitment, either by the council as a whole or  
74 by individual members of the council, to establish of a specific funding  
75 mechanism or tax assessment. Further deliberation on funding issues and  
76 discussions with other local governments in King County will take place  
77 as part of the council's deliberation on Proposed Ordinance 2006-0334  
78 establishing a county flood control zone district.

79 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

80 SECTION 1. Ordinance 11112, Section 1, and K.C.C. 20.12.480 are each hereby  
81 amended to read as follows:

82 The King County Flood Hazard ~~((Reduction))~~ Management Plan ~~((policies))~~, as  
83 shown in Attachment ~~((A [to Ordinance 11112] and incorporated herein by reference,~~  
84 ~~are))~~ A to this ordinance is adopted as ((operating principles)) a functional plan to guide  
85 King County's ~~((flood hazard reduction))~~ river and floodplain management program~~((s))~~

86 and to meet the intent of the ~~((water and natural resource))~~ natural environment, and  
87 facilities and services policies of the King County Comprehensive Plan. As an  
88 amplification and augmentation of the King County Comprehensive Plan, ~~((the policies))~~  
89 the flood hazard management plan constitutes official county policy with regard to  
90 ~~((flood hazard reduction and flood plain))~~ river and floodplain management in King  
91 County. For each site-specific project, such as levee improvements or concentrated areas  
92 of home buyouts or elevations, a project summary is included to provide a better  
93 understanding of the flood or erosion conditions of concern and the action or actions  
94 proposed to address them. Project summaries, and references to easements, buffers or  
95 levee improvements, including levee laybacks, in connection with such project  
96 summaries are intended to function at the level of planning documents and do not assume  
97 that the nature and scope of each of the described projects are the final project or action  
98 that are described in this chapter 5 or in Appendices E, F and G of Attachment A to this  
99 ordinance. The proposed projects and actions are not intended to substitute for the site-  
100 specific analysis to determine what is required for each of the site specific capital projects  
101 that will be recommended and adopted as part of an annual capital improvement plan.  
102 The priority, scope, nature and cost of the proposed projects or actions may change as the  
103 hydraulic, engineering and geotechnical conditions at each site are analyzed in greater  
104 detail, and as engineering alternatives are developed, analyzed, reviewed and negotiated  
105 with federal, state, local and tribal agencies and affected property owner or owners.  
106 However, while the plan sets forth what the county currently believes are best practices,  
107 nothing in this plan creates or precludes the creation of new land use requirements, laws  
108 or regulations. For the reach of the Tukwila 205 levee and any extensions thereof

109 between South 180th Street and South 204th Street, the setback, easement, and slope  
110 design recommendations of the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan are  
111 satisfied if the repair, extension or modification of an existing levee or the design of a  
112 new levee meet the design guidelines and factors of safety in United States Army Corps  
113 of Engineers Engineering Manual for the Design and Construction of Levees (EM 1110-  
114 2-1913) dated April 30, 2000, as most currently updated.

115       SECTION 2. It is the intent of the county to take timely action to ensure adequate  
116 funding is available for the implementation of projects and programs that are outlined in  
117 the plan to reduce flood risks and infrastructure needs on major rivers in King County  
118 and to address such subregional flood risks and infrastructure needs on tributaries and in  
119 jurisdictions that have regulations consistent with the plan, that carry out the flood risk  
120 policies and other policy objectives of the plan, as may be identified by the executive, the  
121 executive's staff and cooperating jurisdictions. Such subregional flood risks and  
122 infrastructure needs as may be identified would also recognize past investments in flood  
123 risk reduction and local cost shares for any future funding.

124       SECTION 3. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to

**Ordinance 15673**

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125 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the  
126 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.  
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Ordinance 15673 was introduced on 7/10/2006 and passed as amended by the  
Metropolitan King County Council on 1/16/2007, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Gossett, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr.  
Dunn, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Hague and Mr. Constantine  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:

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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 26th day of January, 2007.

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Ron Sims, County Executive

**Attachments**      A. 2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan dated December 5, 2006